

Appl. No. 09/756,805
Amdt. Dated 2/11/2005
Response to Office action dated 08/13/2004

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are pending. No new matter has been added.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims 2, 5 and 11 have been amended, and claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 2, 5 and 11 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to "the invention" is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this Application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this Application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Interview Summary

A telephone interview was conducted on September 9, 2004. The Practitioner described that van Hoff is directed to a system for appending a hyperlink to a keyword in a requested web page where the hyperlink is a resource locator for an advertisement. In van Hoff, there is a dictionary, or database table which associates keywords with hyperlinks. In van Hoff, when a user requests a web page, the hyperlink is appended to the web page delivered to the user's browser.

The Practitioner described that the claims are directed to a bulletin board system (BBS) where a user posts a message text to the BBS; if the message text includes a notable word, the notable word within the message text is converted to hypertext format having a URL; if the hypertext link is selected, the system performs a keyword search of all other message texts residing on the

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BBS, wherein the keyword is the notable word; a search report is provided to the user listing the messages including the keyword.

The Examiner stated that the claimed invention of claim 2 appears different than van Hoff.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character not mentioned in the description: s20. The paragraph of the specification at page 14, lines 16-26 has been amended to include the reference character s20. Therefore the objection has been overcome.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference character mentioned in the description: 100b. The attached replacement sheet for FIG. 4 shows the amended FIG. 4. In amended FIG. 4, reference character 100a has been replaced with 100b. Therefore the objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by van Hoff (USP 5,822,539). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applicant has amended claims 2, 5 and 11. The amended parts of claims 2, 5 and 11 are supported by the description in the specification, on Page 16, lines 10-22.

According to independent claims 2, 5, 8 and 11, the applicant respectfully submits that the present invention of each of the claims can be distinguished from the invention disclosed in van Hoff.

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Van Hoff discloses an annotation system performing annotation of a requested document when a user requested the document. The present invention is to place a hyperlink in a message posted to a bulletin board or an email received by a mail server.

Van Hoff does not disclose the construction in that when the record including the notable word exists as a result of searching the second database, the word in the message text is converted into a hypertext format having a URL generated properly to which the word is linked as a link destination, and the message text is posted on the bulletin board, the URL being so described as to constitute a start instruction to a search report program, which reports a result of searching the second database by using the notable word as a keyword. Van Hoff's URL does not constitute a start instruction to run a search program of the second database with the keyword.

Since the present invention according to each of the amended claims has distinguishing features which are not disclosed in van Hoff, the applicant respectfully submits the present application may not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Conclusion

It is submitted, however, that the independent and dependant claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

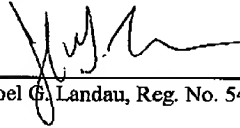
In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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